SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

Nixon's Aggressive Stand Remains Unchanged

IN order to delude public opinion and create favourable conditions for winning the coming presidential election campaign in the United States, Nixon repeatedly trotted out fallacious allegations on peace and the Viet Nam and Indochina issues. He boasted of his efforts in "eliminating the basic causes of conflict, building a new world order in which nations and peoples... can live together in peace, respecting one another." He clamoured that "the Indochinese peoples should be allowed to determine their destiny without outside intervention" and that "its constant primary objective has been a negotiated solution," etc.

NIXON has tirelessly ballyhooed about "his goodwill for peace" but he cannot cover up his aggressive, bellicose and extremely obdurate and brutal design. Right at the moment when he was talking of "peace," Nixon sent more B52 strategic bombers to Guam and Thailand, and aircraft carriers to the Tonkin Gulf and intensified the use of air force to bomb and strafe the Indochinese countries. More serious still, during the Vietnamese traditional Tet Lunar New Year Festival, Nixon ordered US planes to carry out airstrikes over heavily populated areas in Vinh Linh and Quang Binh province, North Viet Nam. On February 25, 1972, US planes even dropped over Xuan Loc area close to northeast Saigon 7-ton bombs or "Daisycutters," listed by AP as conventional weapon in the US arsenal.

While stepping up the war of genocide and ecocide in Indochina, the Nixon administration has repeatedly and seriously sabotaged the Paris Conference on Viet Nam with a view to eluding a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem. Following its unilateral postponements of the 139th and 145th plenary sessions of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, the US preposterously refused to attend the 146th plenary session on March 2, 1972. Nixon clings to his deceitful "eight-point plan for peace" which has been sternly condemned by public opinion in the United States and the world.

HE has refused to respond to the RSVN PRG's seven-point solution of which the two main points were elaborated in the February 2, 1972 Statement. That solution comprises proposals that ensure the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese.

It is a correct basis to settle the Viet Nam issue, in conformity with the interests of the Vietnamese, the Americans and world peace and help the US end the war in honour, bring all US troops and captured American armymen home at an early date. On the contrary, Nixon's eight-point proposal is a perfidious plan of the aggressors. It brings evidence to the US neo-colonialist stand consisting in turning South Viet Nam into a US military base and neo-type colony. By advancing his eight-point plan as a basis for negotiations, Nixon insolently demands the Vietnamese people to accept the US neo-colonialist domination and renounce the gains won by millions of our people at the cost of their blood. Nixon spoke of an "ultimate withdrawal" of all US forces from South Viet Nam. But he refused to set a terminal date to that withdrawal. This simply is one of his cunning tricks to prolong the war of aggression and maintain the US military occupation of South Viet Nam. Nixon referred to the "right to self-determination of each Indochinese people," but this is only a shield to cover up the maintenance of his dictatorial and bellicose lackey Nguyen Van Thieu in Saigon, and the traitorous clique in Phnom Penh and Vientiane, as tools for the implementation of US neo-colonialism. In an interview with the US Reader's Digest magazine (February 1972 issue), Nixon insolently declared that he would maintain the US presence in Viet Nam as long as the negotiations brought no results and captured US armymen still remained in Viet Nam.

It is clear that Nixon has not yet given up his illusion of winning a "military victory" and "negotiating from a position of strength." He arrogantly urges the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples to choose between US neo-colonialism and continued war devastation. Nixon "goodwill for peace" is actually sabotage of peace and intensification of the aggressive war in Indochina. His "8-point peace plan" is a neo-colonialist plan which treads upon the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese.

Nixon's stand is that of a warlike, obdurate and perfidious aggressor. But the more his stubbornness, the heavier and more ignominious his reverses. More than 6 million tons of bombs and shells he has dropped over Indochina these 3 years testify to his sanguinary character, but on the other hand are evidence of the lamentable fiasco of his "Vietnamization" of the war. No brutal and perfidious move of his can shake the iron-like determination of our entire people's struggle for independence and freedom. The Vietnamese people cherish peace but it must be a peace in independence and freedom. So long as Nixon has not given up his policy of aggressive neo-colonialism and continues the "Vietnamization" policy in South Viet Nam, the Vietnamese people will persist in and step up their fight, and shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal Cambodian and Lao peoples, are determined to defeat completely the policy of "Vietnamization of the war" and the "Nixon doctrine" in Indochina, and bring the pro-national anti-US struggle to total victory.

(A Commentary from *Giai Phong* Press Agency)

In this issue, we carry excerpts from the last part of the White Book *published recently by the Committee for Denunciation of US Imperialists' and Their Henchmen's War Crimes in South Viet Nam* — Ed.

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Nixon's "Vietnamization": a genocidal war crime

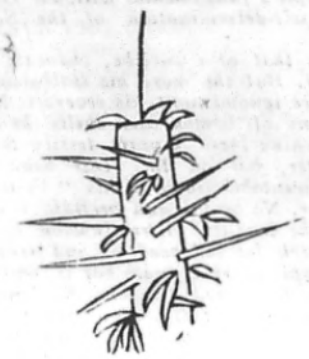
"VIETNAMIZATION" does not mean to end the war but to prolong it and pile up more crimes against the South Vietnamese people. These crimes aim at destroying not only the life of the South Vietnamese people but also all their living conditions.

The Convention of December 9, 1948 condemning genocide said: The crime of genocide includes one of the following action aimed at destroying all or part of a nation, race or religion because the victim of the genocide belongs to that nation, race or religion:

— To massacre members of that community;

— To force that community to live in conditions that lead it to total or partial destruction...

Viewed under the above convention, all the above-denounced crimes of the US, puppets and satellites are genocidal crimes. And the war being carried on by the Nixon administration in South Viet Nam is a genocidal war.



These genocidal crimes are also war crimes in a restricted sense because they violate series of war regulations such as the fourth Convention of August 12, 1949 on the protection of the civilian population in a war. The Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925 and the United Nations Resolution of December 16, 1929 prohibited the use of all kinds of chemical weapons in war that may directly affect men, animals and vegetation. The Hague Convention of October 18, 1907 prohibited the use of weapons to cause unnecessary sufferings, etc.

These genocidal crimes are at the same time crimes against human beings on account of their extremely inhuman character and because they are systematically carried out in furtherance of an intentional scheme of the US authorities.

Reviewing all the above criminal acts, one can see that the Nixon administration does not only attack man but also nature and all other living creatures, it does not only aim at destroying the life of man but also all animals and plants, destroying the ecology of the South Vietnamese people to make life impossible to them and bring about, as was pointed out at the International Conference of Scientists held in Paris in December 1970, "the terrible upsetting of the ecology in Viet Nam, the magnitude of which is beyond man's imagination." World progressive public opinion has ample grounds to condemn the US for committing biocide and ecocide, unprecedented crimes in history.

For more than 10 years now, the way of conducting the US war in Viet Nam has changed many times but the nature of the war remains the same. This is but a neo-colonialist war of aggression of the US whose main objective is to abolish the fundamental national rights, particularly the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people to turn South Viet Nam into a new-type colony and military base of the US and perpetuate the partition of Viet Nam.

According to international law, to wage a war of aggression is to commit the biggest international crime. More serious still this is a neo-colonialist war of aggression aimed at enslaving a nation, abolish the national fundamental rights of man, violate the UN General Assembly's resolutions of December 14, 1960, December 2 1965, and December 21, 1965 which condemn the maintenance of neo-colonialism under the various forms as a crime against mankind.

"Vietnamization" of the war is one of the biggest and gravest international crimes not only because it constitutes a source of genocidal crimes but also because it is itself the biggest international crime insofar as it continues the neo-colonialist war of aggression in a new form against the South Vietnamese people.

By "Vietnamization" the US aggressors have also committed crimes against peace because they intensify and expand the war, destroy peace in Indochina and jeopardize peace in Southeast Asia and the world.

The crime of "Vietnamizing" the war committed by the Nixon administration is also particularly serious in many respects.

First, the Nixon administration deliberately buys, reactionarizes and forces a section of the Vietnamese nation to commit genocidal crimes against their own nation, deliberately prolonging the war with Vietnamese blood, scheming to conduct a fractricidal war to cover up the nature of US imperialism turn, the hatred of the entire Vietnamese people for the US aggressors into hatred among the Vietnamese themselves, in an attempt to push the whole of a nation into self-destruction with US weapons.

Second, the Nixon administration mechanizes its acts of genocide by promoting the use of techniques and modern lethal and destructive weapons in the place of American troops to exterminate the Vietnamese people.

Third, the Nixon administration uses the whole Vietnamese nation as a holocaust for the experiment of the "Nixon doctrine" with a view to drawing lessons for the repression of other nations, realizing its ambition of world hegemony and considers the Vietnamese people as a kind of men it may destroy without mercy.

File on US-puppet crimes

REVENGE FOR ORPHANS

THE Committee for Denunciation of US Imperialists' and Their Henchmen's War Crimes in South Viet Nam issued on February 20, 1972 a statement denouncing the US-Thieu clique's atrocities against the inmates of the Long Thanh orphanage.

"The three thousand Long Thanh orphans," the statement said, "victims of the US aggressive war and whose parents have been murdered by the US and its hirelings, are waifs and strays bereft of familial love. They are now targets to US-Thieu brutalities and oppression. This supplies a further proof of the regime's wickedness."

... It is necessary to point out that Nguyen Van Thieu, a US agent who has lost all human feeling, has been perpetrating numerous crimes against orphans, not only in Long Thanh, but also at Tu Tam Orphanage (Quy Nhon) where on October 2, 1971 a number of them were killed and many others seriously wounded.

... The Committee for Denunciation of US Imperialists' and Their Henchmen's War Crimes in South Viet Nam denounces to public opinion at home and abroad, and condemns, the aforesaid heinous crimes of the US-Thieu clique. It demands that it stop terrorising and repressing children at various orphanages, release the monks in charge of the Long Thanh institution including its head, Reverend Nguyen Van Su, and give the people freedom of movement to help Long Thanh inmates."

STEPPED-UP RAIDS AND BOMBINGS

1,000 GIs of Brigade 3, Air Cavalry Divisison One, launched on January 20, 1972 two raid in the second Military Sector, killing 198 civilians. Earlier, on January 14, 1972, 20 infantry battalions and 12 armoured units of the Saigon army totalling 15,000 men conducted 6 other sweeps against Dau Tieng area, where 370 people were mown down.

On January 18, 1972, Pak Jung Hi mercenaries "mopped up" several places in Central Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam proper), slaughtering 266 civilians. On February 20, 1972, an American ground force, rushed to the High Plateaux by a battalion of big-type helicopters, mounted two operations, taking a toll of 212 civilians, plundering 160 draught animals and reducing to ashes many houses.

Meanwhile, US tactical jet planes were active in many places: on January 14, 1972 alone, US aircraft fiercely attacked areas within a radius of 36 miles to 40 miles east and northeast of Saigon. Between January 15 and 26, 1972, several areas in the northeastern part of Saigon were continually bombed. On some days, B-52 planes flew 9 strikes in which 15,000-pounders were used.

On January 17, 1972, after 5 furious C-52 assaults in Pleiku and Kontum, C-130 planes dropped 15,000-pounders, and then fighter-intercept ors mounted 8 successive attacks against the same provinces. On the night of January 24, 1972, US B-52s rained 1,350 tons of bombs on Pleiku, the fiercest ever bombing in a single night.

In the same period, Saigon aircraft also made 1,900 sorties in support of the puppet troops operations, causing considerable losses in lives and property to the people.

Nixon's professisons of peace turn into crimes of war

US DOMINATION SHOULD BE ENDED

FOR many years the townsfolk in South Viet Nam have been leading a wretched material and spiritual life. It has been further aggravated since Nixon's "Vietnamization" was put into effect with the ensuing intensification and widening of the war. Many businessmen and industrialists have gone bankrupt. Newspapers and printing presses have met with no mean difficulties arising from the spiralling price of newsprints, editors and journalists have been persecuted by the quisling authorities. Students have not been able to go on with their studies owing to "school militarization" and text-book and paper shortage. War wounded and veterans of the puppet army and their families are unfairly treated. Children orphaned by war and living in camps received bullets and anti-riot gas as mid-autumn festival presents. Impoverished labouring people cannot afford medicaments and medicare. For the sake of fundamental human rights men and women of all walks of life—workers, students, Buddhists, members of the Saigon army and administration—have had to act to eradicate the cause of their plight. A well-known professor, who had held key positions in the Ministry of Education, stated: "The immediate objective of the current struggle is an end to American domination over this land," which is also the wish of the whole Saigon population.

By now the "resist US aggression, for national salvation" slogan is not only written down on the street pavements or worn on their breasts and hats by demonstrators of varied social sections. It was in the platform of a Saigonese running for the Lower House. The fire displayed by half a million Saigonese in their first confrontation with US aggressive power 22 years ago (March 19, 1950) has been manifold enhanced at present. Aside from a minority who resign themselves to serving the American invaders, nobody nurtures any illusion about Nixon's peace professions. Nobody is either unaware of the real meaning of Thieu's most reactionary "4 nays" position. Wrapped in attractive rhetorical flourishes about the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, the "8-point place plan" put forward by Nixon and Thieu will not fool anyone. As a matter of fact, for over a month since it was announced, the Saigon press has been unequivocally and continually exposing the US president's cheap propaganda move and Thieu's true colours as a traitor, a valet of American warmongers. Recently many progressive organizations, political and religious figures in Saigon openly and resolutely demanded that the Washington immediately and precisely publish its plan of troop withdrawal from South Viet Nam so that the Vietnamese may settle their own affairs among themselves, that Thieu resign, and that the present constitution of the Saigon regime be amended and a broad, truly democratic government be formed in a spirit of national concord. They also declared their support to the PRG 7 points.

Alarmed by the vigorous and widespread movement against US aggression, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration has been stepping up repression against students and workers' drives, and arrest, detention and fining of opposition personalities. More than ever, terror is unable to stem the mass movement against foreign aggression, for independence and liberty in South Vietnamese urban centres. This drive cannot but become more explosive and integrate itself in the revolutionary tidal waves of the whole Vietnamese people's assaults on the US imperialists and their native henchmen.

"FOR the first time in the history of Vietnamese tribunals, a composer was sentenced for his creations." This remark comes from a correspondent of *Thoi The* (Time), a Saigon newpaper, reporting on a session of the Saigon Court, in which a composer student was tried for songs "conducive to disobedience and desertion." The composer was Mien Duc Thang (Pham Van Thang is his real name) a 24-year-old student of sociology, third grade, Van Hanh University. He was arrested on Oct. 15, 1969.

Thang's collection of songs entitled "Songs from Deserted Fields" consists of 10 pieces: Lullaby; the Chirping of Morning Birds; Mother, Should I Be Brought Up to Become a Pow?; A Song to Mamma; The Bullet; I Heard you in the Night; Calling to the Native Land; Song on a Barren Land, Songs from Deserted Fields; Song on the Man. They were published in 1967 and performed by their author in various places: the seat of the Saigon General Association of Students, that of the Jesuits, Linh Son Pagoda, Dalat University, etc.

10 Musical Compositions
5 Years of Hard Labour

In his report on the tribunal session of Jan. 24, 1970, the *Thoi The* correspondent wrote that the judge, Colonel Tran Van Quyen, read out an indictment pointing out that composer Thang had, in his musical works voiced hatred against the war and laid the blame on the "Republic of Viet Nam" and the Allies (i.e. the United States) for having kindled the conflict, and said absolutely nothing against the Communists. A passage from "Lullaby" was quoted by the judge as evidence of Thang's anti-war feeling and libel on the military forces of the ARVN: "Sleep, sleep, my child, and grow up and kill your friends and brothers, — Sleep, sleep, my child, and grow up and become a great mandarin." "The Bullet" was also quoted: "The Vietnamese people want food and clothing but the generous Allies give them a considerable aid... in bullets. In the name of Peace bullets of civilization are offered by the friendly Allied power to both zones of Viet Nam." These words were entended to fan up hatred for the Allies and to lay the blame for the war on them, the arraignment said.

The judge cited two passages of "Mother, Should I Be Brought Up to Become a Pow?" which, he said, were an incitement to disobedience and desertion: "I'll become a POW, because I don't want to kill my brothers; I don't want to be branded on account of my killing." In "Calling to the Native Land," the judge found passages "susceptible of arousing hatred for the ARVN" and he quoted: "In my native land, there is plenty of new graves, and snack bars, but no friends; my native land is filled with hatred, and bomb explosions, it's a land of armoured cars, a land trampled upon by hob-nailed shoes, racked with war, and sufferings."

At the end of the tribunal session, the judge gave this conclusion: "Usually a genuine composer writes the music before writing the words, because he first feels the vibrations of his heart. But you, you intentionally write the words first, because your nurture dark designs."

And consequently composer Mien Duc Thang was sentenced to five years of hard labour by this tribunal of Nguyen Van Thieu's "Second Republic."

in the cities

• On March 1, 1972, 25 progressive organizations in Saigon including the "People's Front for Peace," the "Self-Determination Movement," the "Commission for a Better Penitentiary Regime," the Commission for the People's Right to Live, the "Saigon Students' General Association" and the Van Hanh Students' General Association, released a statement scoring the Nixon-Thieu's eight-points.

They demanded that the Saigon authorities amend the "constitution" to conform it to the spirit of national concord and the neutralization of South Viet Nam. They also urged the release of Mme Ngo Ba Thanh, and Huynh Tan Mam and cessation of the terror against the opposition forces and progressive mass organizations.

They also came out for the February 2, 1972, 2-point elaboration of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

• On March 3, ten political and religious personalities in Saigon issued a statement demanding the announcement by the US of a time-table for GI withdrawal from South Viet Nam, resignation of Nguyen Van Thieu and formation in Saigon of a broad democratic government with the participation of peace fighters of all political leanings and social sections in South Viet Nam.

• The "Hue Students' General Association" and the "Movement of School youth in South Viet Nam" organized in 1971 a week-long exhibition denouncing the crimes of genocide of US imperialism. Many photos were displayed showing scenes of death and sufferings visited by the US war of aggression and the students' actions against the aggressors and traitors to the country. The show was viewed daily by thousands of people including foreign correspondents.

• Nobody knows Huynh Tan Mam's whereabouts after his kidnapping on January 5, 1972 by the quisling authorities. Many mass organizations and newspapers denounced this as a move to crack down on the students' movement. Recently Mam's mother has protested against the Saigon rulers' detaining her son for 180 days in all for his legitimate activities and asked for his immediate release.

• Representatives of teachers' organizations in Saigon urged the 'Minister of Education" of the Saigon government to take measures to improve the living conditions of the teachers who are witnessing the deterioration of their living condition and the degradation of their dignity.

• On February 21, the workers of the Esso oil firm at Bien Hoa staged an action against exploitation and arbitrary sacking by their employers. This protest, begun on February 4, was firmly supported by other workers and war invalids who displayed slogans pressing for satisfaction of these claims.

• The Saigon tribunal has just sentenced the manager of the daily *Song Than* to 15 days' imprisonment with stay of execution and a 50,000-piastre fine for carrying in an issue at the end of 1971 an article denouncing a puppet general in Quang Ngai for bribery and rape.

• The higher price of paper has made many printing houses and bookstores bankrupt and closed many others. In Hue, season's greeting cards could not sell because of their doubling in price and Saigonese dailies' circulation dropped by 40 per cent owing to an exorbitant freight rate.

• After the "Autumn economic revolution," Thieu and his ilk will take a new series of economic measures called "Spring economic revolution" aimed at fleecing the inhabitants of their money in order to offset the budgetary deficit caused by the curtailment of American aid. The cost of many necessities such as rice, petrol, milk, medicines, has gone up and drastic financial measures will be taken such as higher taxes, change of exchange rates...

• During Tet, the Saigon authorities on the one hand released a number of prisoners but on the other stepped up their brutalities against the Poulo Condor inmates. In fact, they fired over 180 high explosive shells into wards, causing burns to the prisoners (200 seriously injured), cut down their ration and refused to give medical care to the patients. The prisoners of that penal settlement have called on their countrymen in the mainland to support their action and denounce the goalers' cruelty.

THE DELEGATION OF THE NUFK AND THE RGNUC VISITS THE DRVN

AT the invitation of President Ton Duc Thang, President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, President of the National United Front of Kampuchea, and Madame Princess Monique Sihanouk paid a friendship visit to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam from February 12 to March 5, 1972.

During his stay in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk had cordial exchanges of views with President Ton Duc Thang, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Le Duan, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly Truong Chinh, Premier Pham Van Dong, Vice-Premier and Minister of National Defence Vo Nguyen Giap, and Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Duy Trinh.

The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of militant solidarity, fraternal friendship and total mutual confidence. The two parties held identical views on all questions discussed.

Following are excerpts from the joint Statement by both sides :

US imperialism is the cruellest, most obstinate and most dangerous enemy of the Indochinese peoples and of mankind as a whole. Its aggressive and bellicose nature has not in the least changed as proved by the "Nixon doctrine." Born in the wake of a series of defeats of the US imperialist aggressors in Indochina and thus containing factors of insurmountable failure, the "Nixon doctrine" is irremediably doomed to total defeat.

Last year, the three Indochinese peoples won unprecedented great victories in all respects in their patriotic struggle against US aggression. They dealt at the US aggressors and their lackeys hard blows, seriously weakening the puppet troops and shaking the puppet administrations to their foundation. They are tipping the balance of forces in their favour, thus opening splendid vistas for moving ahead and completely defeating the US war of aggression.

But the US imperialists have not yet renounced their schemes of aggression against South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. With his so-called "eight points for peace" presented on January 25, 1972, Nixon thought he could withdraw US troops while maintaining the US neo-colonialist domination in the three countries of Indochina. By setting conditions for an end to the US aggression and for the total withdrawal of US troops, he demands the peoples of the three Indochinese countries to accept the US-paid puppet administrations and troops in Saigon, Phnom Penh and Vientiane. Thus, the US demands the three peoples of Indochina to lay down their weapons and surrender. More recently, the US administration has hypocritically declared that in the absense of a negotiated settlement, the US envisages the final pullout of all the US forces from this region, which is in conformity with the aim of self-determination of each Indochinese country. In fact the self-determination referred to by the US is the pursuance of their policy of neo-colonialist aggression in this part of the world by the maintenance of their henchmen against whom the three peoples of Indochina have struggled and are struggling powerfully. The US must really respect the right of self-determination and stop using the US-paid puppets against the will of the Indochinese peoples. The fact that the US continues to intensify the "Vietnamization" and the "Khmerization" of the war and the "special war" in Laos, multiplying barbarous attacks by a growing number of planes of all types against the three countries of Indochina has laid bare the deceitfulness of Nixon's peace.

The two parties solemnly declare the following :

— The US imperialists are waging a war of aggression against the three Indochinese countries. The only correct way to re-establish peace in Indochina is that the US must put an end to its aggression and really respect the fundamental national rights of the peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos in conformity with the spirit of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on the Indochinese countries and the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos.

— The US government must give a positive response to the two key problems of the 7-point solution of the Republic of South Viet Nam Provisional Revolutionary Government. It must put an end to its air war and all military activities in Viet Nam, set a deadline for the rapid and complete withdrawal from South Viet Nam of all troops, advisers, and military personnel, arms and war materials of the United States and other foreign countries of the US camp without posing any condition. The US government must really respect the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people and cease all interference in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam. Nguyen Van Thieu must resign immediately, the Saigon administration must end its bellicose policy, abolish its oppressive and coercive machine against the people, end the "pacification" policy, dismantle concentration camps, set free the persons arrested for political reasons, guarantee the democratic liberties of the people, so as to clear the way for the formation of a three-component national concord government with a view to the organization of really free and democratic general elections in South Viet Nam.

— The US government must end its aggression, its policy of "Khmerization" of the war, pull out immediately, totally and unconditionally from Cambodia American and satellite advisors, military personnel, the Saigon and Bangkok armed forces, cease the bombing and shelling of Cambodian territory by US air, artillery and naval forces, and by the Saigon and Bangkok puppet regimes, cease all aid, assistance and support to the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh traitorous clique, cease all other acts of war and provocation against Cambodia and let the Cambodian people settle their own affairs without any foreign interference, on the basis of the 5-point proclamation put forth by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk on March 23, 1970, and the Political Programme of the National United Front of Kampuchea. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State, is the depositary of the legality, the legitimate and the continuity of the Cambodian State. The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia with Samdech Penn Nouth as Prime Minister and Mr Khieu Samphan as Vice-Premier is the only and authentic legal and legitimate government of Cambodia.

— The two parties totally support the Lao Patriotic Front's March 6, 1970 five-point political solution which constitutes the correct basis for a peaceful settlement of the Lao problem. The US government must put an end to its intervention and aggression, withdraw from Laos completely and unconditionally American advisors and military personnel and war materials and Thai troops; in the immediate future, it must stop completely and unconditionally the bombings conducted by the US and the Saigon and Vientiane puppets on the whole territory of Laos, let the concerned Lao parties settle the internal affairs of Laos in conformity with the 1962 Geneva Agreement and the realities of the present situation in Laos.

As long as the Nixon administration pursues its neo-colonialist goals against the Indochinese countries, and goes ahead with the "Nixon doctrine" in Indochina, the peoples of Viet Nam and Cambodia, standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Laos are determined to fight with perseverance and vigour till complete victory.

WIDESPREAD RESPONSE TO PRG 10 POINTS

IMMEDIATELY after its publication, the 10 policies of the PRG concerning the US-Thieu forcible drafting of South Vietnamese youths into the Saigon army has elicited widespread response. Families whose members have been impressed into the army and those who have been misled by enemy propaganda, all find the policy "really tolerant and generous" and see it as "the most inspiring document for the soldiers to ponder over, take the right decision and break away from the US-Thieu regime."

In Hue, families of Saigon armymen have taken a keen interest in every point of the policy and happily tell one another about it. "The policy of the Americans and Mr Thieu," many say, "is designed to destroy and murder everybody, whereas that of the PRG seeks to save everybody. Great generosity and leniency has always been one of our nation's traditional characteristics throughout all periods of fighting against foreign aggression. Our great cause will certainly prevail over tyranny." A number of young draftees who have escaped are joining their families in disseminating the PRG 10 policies to officers and men and administration personnel still in the enemy ranks. Many a family has combined resistance to forcible relocation with explanation of these policies, beneficial to both the nation and the family, to members of the Saigon army and administration.

In Long An, Ben Tre, Tra Vinh and Thu Dau Mot, many families of draftees, besides wakening up their husbands, brothers and sons to the fact, have made thousands of written copies of the 10 policies and distributed them to other Saigon soldiers. A good number of officers and men of the puppet army and members of the "popular defence" have engaged in heated discussions and feel gratified with the understanding and generosity of the Resistance government 10 policies. Apart from seeking every means to propagate them among puppet armymen and administration personnel, the inhabitants have discussed plans to talk their relatives over to the people's side.

In the "stategic hamlets" along Highway No One, in Ba Ria and Long Khanh provinces, the inhabitants, together with 100 runaways, have held a meeting to acclaim the 10 policies.

More and more Saigon soldiers and "popular defence" men have come to realize that US-Thieu failure is obvious, and that the patriotic South Vietnamese people are winning and are bound to gain complete victory. The 10 policies have helped them understand that the Revolution and the people regard them and their families as victims of the US-Thieu regime and this has impelled them to change sides.

In late January this year alone, 105 members of a security forces company stationed in Thanh Phu district town (Ben Tre) twice showed collective disobedience to combat orders.

On the night of Feb. 12, in Tra Vinh 2 members of the "popular defence" mutinied. They killed a cruel hamlet chief and a security assistant, disbanded a "popular defence" platoon and seized 12 weapons, thousands of rounds of ammunition and a transceiver which they eventually turned over to the Revolution. During the recent Tet (Lunar New Year) Festival, thousands of officers and men of main force and security forces units in My Tho ignored orders to conduct sweeps. Lately in Binh Dinh awakened armymen rose up on 20 occasions, during which they wiped out 275 of their mates, decimated or caused to disband 6 platoons, blasted down 14 military huts and destroyed a power generator, 2 transceivers and 36 weapons.

To Nguyen Ba Truong of the Saigonese 5th Division, like to many others who have strayed from the right path, "the 10 specific policies of the PRG are both fair and reasonable, and they dispel the anxiety and worries that have been nagging at those families with members forcibly enrolled into the Saigon administration. They show and open the way to those who are ordered or misled into firing at their own countrymen and destroying their home country, encourage them and earnestly call on them to get together and fight the native traitor and the foreign aggressor."

OUR FIRST FOOTAGES

A cinematography class in the jungle

EARLY in 1962, I was one of the twenty comrades selected to attend the first cinematography class organized by the NFL Central Committee. We all felt elated. Militants of the press, arts and literature for long years, we used to handle rudimentary media in our activities: pens, brushes, woodcut plates, loudspeakers made of tin, etc. Now that we were to be initiated into a new branch with sophisticated means, we couldn't help feeling concerned. "Shall I be equal to my task?" I wondered. But the fact that I had been chosen set my mind at peace, and I eargerly followed my guides up to the rallying point up hill and down dale, across brooks and ravines and dangerous spots. All along the way we saw in our mind's eye a "movieland" with up-to-date equipment as not few among us had read about Hollywood and other such centres. At the end of the trek we found that our "movieland" was just a piece of dense jungle. I was introduced to Nguyen Hien and Bui Kinh Lang alias Sau Lang, responsible for the class. They told me, "We have no facilities, so we'll build everything from scratch. We'll thus gradually create what we need, that's our revolutionary tradition." On the very next day we set to work. All, Nguyen Hien and Sau Lang included, half-naked and armed with knives and machetes, cut bamboo trees and tiger grass with which to build our school. To produce food, we started clearing land, grow sweet potatoes and manioc and raise poultry and pigs.

To buy time, in the daytime we busied ourselves with "capital construction" and in the evening with theoretical and technical questions sitting around a lamp made of a bottle that smacked of resin. Sau Lang lectured on aesthetical and artistic and literary theories whereas Nguyen Hien especially dealt with film - making, both theoretically and technically.

My friends and I lived and learned in a tense atmosphere. US "limited war" was at its initial stage when American troops were poured in massively. Bombs and artillery thundered day and night. Napalm and toxic chemicals were sprayed on the jungle. We found ourselves permanently on the lookout either to counter enemy raids or fight fires. Our watchword was: we go our way, let the dogs bark. Our "movieland" was soon built complete with dormitories, dining halls, work rooms, projection halls, laboratories and so on. We also farmed one hectare of sweet potatoes and cassava, and reared a flock of chickens, another of hogs.

When the theoretical course of aesthetics, arts and literature came to a close, we attended a technical one on moving pictures. As instruments we had only a photographic apparatus and a dilapidated *Bell Howel* Camera taken from the enemy in an action. Film was extremely scarce, and could be obtained from the occupied zone and those who brought it had to cross places under strict adverse control. We learned how to take pictures, filming without film as we had learned shooting without cartridges. Only when we had acquired enough know-how were we allowed to use film and no more than two metres each time. Next came film development for which we had only a wooden barrel having the shape of a trough, and, above it, a wheel — made of wood too — that we set in motion with a handle to roll developed film. Chemicals were poured into the barrel over which we laboured tirelessly. That was the technical process we went through at the start to produce metre after metre of film. It was a hard job indeed and a very gratifying one at the same time. No word could describe our satisfaction when we viewed our first "masterwork" on the screen. Teachers and students engaged in lively comments. I don't know what usually occurs at international festivals but ours proved to be heated and most interesting ones. We constantly drew lessons from our works.

So much about how we were trained. After one year of fruitful efforts we set out to serve the resistance.

A major source of encouragement for my friends and myself was the brand-new *Bayard* cameras and still sealed boxes of film coming from the North. We felt deeply moved at the sight of the gifts, each of them pervaded with the affection of our kith and kin who spent on them their last savings. Those cameras had travelled across the Truong Son Range, over mazes of dangerous paths, under bombs and bullets and at the cost of our fellow-countrymen and comrades' blood and sweat. Though none of us uttered a word, each thought to himself he should live up to his task as a fighter on the movies front.

Our "directors"

IF, while at school, each of us was guided by masters and helped by friends, now we have to fend for ourselves. No few difficulties have cropped up. With Nguyen, Hien's Bui Kim Lang's and Bach Dang's recommendations at the graduation ceremony fresh in our minds, we are resolved, at the cost of our lives, to fulfil our task as cameramen fighters in the spotlight of life and combat topics are not short, examples of heroism can be found everywhere among the population and in the armed forces. It's up to us to choose. Tran Cong and Truong Chinh went deep into the periphery of urban centers and "strategic hamlets" to get scenes of direct confrontation with the enemy. Bombs and shells on the way were not the biggest obstacle. Penetration into these areas is not easy indeed, especially for cameramen. Their presence aroused concern. "My god! You've come here to take pictures and films. People will crowd in and be sure they won't fail to molest us!"

The people's worry was not ungrounded. They should keep vigilant, any inadvertence may cause no end of troubles. We, journalists, photographers and cameramen often forget this. Tran Cong and Truong Chinh were at a loss choosing what to shoot. In such circumstances they realized that not only mass organization militants but cameramen should rely on the people. Popular masses are not only the main film goers but also resourceful "directors". With a clever camouflage, girls from GT hamlet led them up to the neighbourhood of enemy garrisons to film the very mugs of wicked mercenaries and Yanks. Women helped them capture glimpses of the "long-haired army" and scenes of female fighters boldly confronting their opponents in tough political demonstrations.

In one of those tours in which I took part, an old peasant of H. hamlet took me and my friends to his house. Showing us spike pitfalls in his orange grove, he said:

"Look, sonnies! These trees of mine they devastate whenever they come. They lay their hands on the fruit, ripe or green, I have no other choice than fight. Take some pictures of these pitfalls and exhibit them for the devils in enemy garrisons to see and shiver at."

Following our "director"'s advice, we took his and other spike traps right in the "strategic hamlet" and scenes of people making spears, and building combat villages. With these sequences we made reels on the indomitable militancy of our countrymen.

Cameraman – Combatant

THE people's aid was also lavishly given to Pham Khac who shot the successful "counter-sweep" attacks on Cay Diep and Mo Cay posts and produced the film "Sketches of Old Tu's Life." He wanted this film to begin with some images of the tomb of Nguyen Dinh Chieu, the venerated poet and revolutionary of Nam Bo. But unfortunately enough, the monument was located in an area still under the enemy's grip and it would be tremendously difficult to have access to it. Nevertheless the local guerillas and people spared no effort to guide and protect our cameraman through to the fulfilment of his wish, then back to the free zone in safety.

Most remarkable was the armymen's assistance to the film workers. They nicknamed them "peepers" and would look after them with special care during marches.

"I say! my dear 'peeper', don't forget to shoot me in action, please."

"I'm always ready," the cameraman would reply. "Just hit hard, and you'll surely appear on the silver screen."

Between the armymen and the film workers there was a tacit agreement on mutual encouragement.

In the Binh Gia battle (1964-1965) Pham Khac hung on to the troops, whether they were on march or in combat. Once he took part in a prolonged ambush next to the armymen. For 6 or 7 days and nights, he shared with them scanty rations of rice and thin blankets on the cold windy grass. There upon the enemy rolled in in long convoys of tanks and M.113, M.118 armoured vehicles rumbling on the macadamized road. Emerging from their hideouts, our troops came up to the road. Then the first gun shots were heard. Our storm troopers sprang on the road. Shouted Pham Khac: "Fly the flag, Comrades!" A fighter dashed forward with a Liberation standard. Pham Khac raised his camera and immediately recorded this supremely beautiful view. Meanwhile our men darted on the enemy vehicles. Pham Khac, too, jumped on a tank, his apparatus in his hands. A GI who was hiding in the tank aimed his gun at him. But the cameramen cut him down with his pistol, while shooting with the other hand the ignominious end of the GI in his "steel fortress." He was boisterously applauded by the fighters whose cheers drowned the detonations. Strongly stimulated he resumed his filming with redoubled energy. As he saw that our troops at the back were still busy pounding away at the enemy he dashed to them through the cross fire. "Look, Comrades," he cried out, "Ty's group has won. The whole enemy convoy has been wiped out. Hit harder, boys, for me to get some thrilling shots."

The rear unit was fired by Pham Khac's exhortation. "Forward!" they shouted and threw themselves onto the road. B.40s, machine-guns, automatic rifles, the din was deafening indeed. Dense smoke mounted from the US steel monsters. The last section of the enemy convoy was thus knocked out and Pham Khac's documentary on "The Binh Gia Victory on Highway No 2" was also successfully finished.

(To be continued)

A picture from the film
"Forward to the Front"

Cambodia

Pounding rice and... combat ready: the Cambodian people's and fighters' habit

Laos

REPEATED AND VICTORIOUS ATTACKS OF THE LAO PLA IN FEBRUARY

ACCORDING to still incomplete statistics, in February, the Lao PLA, in their repeated attacks across the country, put out of action more than **2,000** enemy and broke many of their operations, seizing or wrecking a large quantity of arms and munitions.

In *Northern Laos*, in last February, the patriotic forces of Xieng Khoang province wiped out nearly 600 adverse men, seized or destroyed 76 firearms and 3 military vehicles and shot down one aircraft. They recovered many positions illegally occupied by the adversary, and liberated thousands of people from the enemy's grip, according to *KPL*.

In Sayaboury, Xieng Khoang, Burikhamsay and Sam Neua provinces, the patriotic forces in their counter-raid actions and hunting for US-fostered bandits on February 2, 16, 18 and 20, put out of combat or captured nearly 150 of them. They seized or destroyed some 80 firearms, 2 military vehicles, and 5 wireless sets. On February 20, they assaulted an enemy position northeast of Sam Thong, knocking out 22 enemy and seizing or wrecking many weapons. Earlier, on February 16, they put out of combat 57 men and seized 12 firearms in an attack on the Phuka position.

At Kasy, Kiou Kacham and north of the Salaphoukhoun road junction in Northern Laos, they put out of combat over 600 soldiers. Of these, some hundreds gave themselves up or deserted.

In Vientiane province, on February 15, they struck the HQ of the 10th Battalion of the Vientiane puppet army northwest of Dong Hen township, knocking down nearly 30 adverse men, including many officers. They also destroyed or seized many weapons and a large quantity of other equipment. From February 18 to 20, they operated in Nam Ken and Phu Pha Cheng areas, putting out of action nearly 40 enemy, and seizing or destroying 27 weapons including three 57 and 75 mm recoilless guns.

In *Southern Laos*, the patriotic forces last February successfully countered enemy raids all over Southern Laos, according *KPL*. Particularly violent were their actions at Ban Nhik, Ban Na Koutchan, Ban Naphac, and along Highways 23 and 9. At the same time, they assaulted enemy encampments in the central part of Dong Hen region.

According to still incomplete figures, they put out of action nearly 400 enemy, including 260 killed. More than 80 guns of various kinds and quantities of other war material were seized or destroyed. The Dong Hen region was recovered by the patriotic forces.

From February 2 to 20, the Lao patriots on the Bolovens Plateau killed, wounded or captured nearly 200 enemy and seized or destroyed a large quantity of weapons.

On February 20, the Lao PLA launched more than 70 attacks on Vientiane puppet forces across the country, *KPL* said quoting Western sources.

The patriotic forces, with infantry guns, shot down a US helicopter which was trying on February 27 to provide cover to beleaguered Vientiane puppet troops in Ban Vieng area, according to *KPL*.

THE DRVN IN BRIEF

• The physico-chemistry department of the Hanoi Polytechnic has been able to produce multi-crystal silica in sheets.

• The Building, Polytechnical and Mining-Geology colleges have conducted successful experiments and put into production a series of new building materials which can be used as high-strength structural shapes, coverings, bricks, tiles, road plates, silicate, hill-soil bricks, earth concrete.

• The Haiphong cement works has organized a Spring Labour day under the "More cement for the Fatherland" watchword. Workers at the coal-treating section strictly observe all work regulations and raise the output of fine coal from 300 to 400 tons/day, ensuring enough fuel supply for the kiln to operate.

• In 1971 the Revolution Museum collected over 800 exhibits from various revolutionary stages.

Most remarkable were 2 collections of pharmaceutical recipes compiled by Nguyen Sinh Huy, father of the late President Ho Chi Minh, which still hold the addresses in his own hand-writing of seamen and laundrymen who had been in touch with the President during his revolutionary activity abroad.

• Fired by the early spring victory, many units and localities in the Viet Bac, Tay Bac and Fourth Military Zones and the anti-aircraft, air force, missile and naval units have gone through still harder training and made good preparations in all fields, while displaying their combat preparedness and resolve to wipe out the enemy.

• Workers of the weaving and dyeing sections and another workshop of the Nam Dinh Silk Factory have put their movement for labour production and economy into high gear. In the first 25 days of this year, the factory produced 8,000 metres of good-quality silk fabrics more than planned.

• The short-story contest organized by the *Literature and Arts* magazine has been highly successful. In an 18-month period, over 900 authors including 3 from the Quang Tri—Thua Thien—Hue battle zone (South Viet Nam) made 1,215 entries.

The organizing committee has decided to award prizes to 20 contestants whose works are highly representative.

Monkey Island

MONKEY Island was formerly known as Reu Island. It is Viet Nam's only off-shore island in the midst of rocky isles, the home of wild monkeys. As monkeys were needed in increasing number to develop production of drugs and research work, as early as 1962 a group of cadres and personnel of the Hygiene and Epidemiology Institute (Ministry of Public Health) arrived at Reu Island where they cleared land, built houses and erected cages for monkey breeding. Now, after nearly 10 years of strenuous efforts they have succeeded in establishing on the island a major base, rather comprehensive, for this trade.

It is the species of yellow-haired monkey, accustomed to native environmental conditions and weighing each from 8 to 17 pounds. They live a near natural life in the island's jungle and only return to the breeding farm area twice a day for 2 principal meals when the gong sounds. Thanks to such natural conditions coupled with good tending, they rarely are infected with diseases and proliferate rather rapidly. From several dozen heads at first, their ranks swell rapidly to several thousand at present, to say nothing about the several hundred animals that go annually to research work and drug production.

In the past few years, monkeys raised on this island have been used to produce a wide range of vaccines for the prevention of epidemics, chiefly infantile poliomyelitis. The needed part is the pair of kidneys. The cells of monkey kidneys, reared in a suitable environment, will self-multiply substantially in a very short period of time. This huge volume of cells is exactly the suitable environment for the multiplication of the kind of virus which provokes polio. The polio-virus, made less harmful, is no longer capable of generating the disease. When introduced into the human body, it helps create strong immunity. This is the most modern method so far to produce this vaccine.

With the monkeys raised on the island, enough vaccine has been produced for free distribution to the people (10 million doses yearly). In this way, millions of *dongs* which would have been spent on imported drugs, have anually been saved for the state. It is also far less expensive than buying monkeys captured by the people, and what is more, the work can be done in a planned way, at specific time and up to technical standards...

The animals are also used in the production of vaccines against measles. The first batches of such vaccines have produced positive results in large-scale administration in many regions.

At present, monkeys are used in research work on many other diseases still rampant among the people, such as trachoma, malaria, etc. And lastly, they are a valuable export line.

For our beloved fatherland

+ The Union of Vietnamese Nationals in France gave a soirée in Paris on Feb. 5 on the occasion of the Lunar New Year.

4,000 Vietnamese residents in Paris and from the provinces attended.

Among the participants were Minister Xuan Thuy, Head of the DRVN Delegation, Nguyen Van Tien and Dinh Ba Thi, deputy heads of the PRG Delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, Huynh Van Tam of the PRG Information Office, Vo Van Sung, DRVN Delegate General to France.

Henri Martin, member of the French Communist Party Central Committee, André Souquières, Secretary General of the French Peace Movement, Charles Fourniau, Secretary General of the French-Viet Nam Friendship Association, leaders of French political and trade-union organizations and other French, American guests as well as representatives of foreign embassies and well-known American artistes Jane Fonda and Barbara Dane were on hand.

In their opening speeches, Le Thanh Khoi and Nguyen Ngoc Ha, respectively Deputy President and Secretary General of the Union of Vietnamese Nationals in France, voiced the deep longing of their fellow-countrymen for their fatherland and their elation over the successes scored by their people in North and South Viet Nam. They expressed the strong support of Vietnamese residents for the PRG 7-point proposal and the Feb. 2, 1972 Statement elucidating the said proposal as well as the DRVN Feb. 5, 1972 Statement on the same subject. Both Le Thanh Khoi and Nguyen Ngoc Ha spelled out firm confidence in their people's resistance to American aggression, for national salvation.

The soirée started with the declamation of the poem *Welcome Nham Ty Spring* by Mr Xuan Thuy. The repertoire which was warmly appreciated by the audience, included solos, choruses, a play in verses with musical accompaniment by the Vietnamese nationals' band, two songs sung by Barbara Dane—one praising Ho Chi Minh and demanding total US troop withdrawal, and the other, a Vietnamese entitled *Cloth Making* telling how people in the rear care about the welfare of soldiers on the frontline.

+ Vietnamese residents in France sent a declaration to the World Assembly for Peace and Independence in Indochina, scoring US continuation of the war in Viet Nam and its expansion throughout Indochina, denouncing Nixon's Vietnamization aiming at prolonging the US criminal war of aggression, and exposing the deceitfulness of his "8-point peace plan."

The statement urged total withdrawal of American and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, respect for the right of the South Vietnamese people to decide themselves their own destiny, definite end to all interference in their own affairs and termination of all backing to the US-installed Nguyen Van Thieu regime.

"Once again Vietnamese nationals in France", the declaration stressed, "reaffirm that South Viet Nam's affairs can only be settled by the South Vietnamese. In this spirit general elections should be organized by a national coalition government comprising all political, spiritual and social organizations in South Viet Nam."

The declaration was signed by representatives of:

The Association of Overseas Buddhists in France;

The Committee for Peace in, and Renovation of, South Viet Nam;

The Movement of Viet Nam Catholics in the Service of the Fatherland;

The Union of Vietnamese Nationals in France;

The South Viet Nam Socialist Party;

The Viet Nam Free Forces;

The "Turn Toward the Fatherland" Movement;

Mr Pham Si Thanh, permanent representative of the Democratic-Socialist Party;

Colonel Nguyen Van Chau, teacher, former Director of Psychological Warfare Department, Saigon;

Cao Minh Chiem, former Secretary General of the Committee of Action for Peace in Viet Nam;

Pham The Truc, former Saigon member of Parliament; Huynh Ba Phuc, former Saigon Air Force officer.

And other well-known figures.

+ Six Vietnamese residents were arbitrarily arrested by the Thai authorities in Surin, according to the paper *Bangkok Post* on February 11.

In a message of February 26 to the Thai Red Cross' Vice-President, Prince Sukhuma Paribatra, the Viet Nam Red Cross protested such an act which, together with the previous ones, constitutes a flagrant violation of the agreements on Vietnamese residents' repatriation reached by the Red Crosses of the DRVN and Thailand.

Viet Nam Red Cross' President, Dr Vu Dinh Tung has urged Prince Sukhuma Paribatra to intervene with the Thai authorities for an end to such repressive acts and for the release of these six Vietnamese nationals and others still arbitrarily detained.

IN BRIEF

• On the occasion of the "Week of International Solidarity with Viet Nam," March 13 to 19, 1972, the Executive Secretariat of the OSPAAAM. issued an appeal to the peoples all over the world "to be constantly on the guard with regard to the vicious plots of the US imperialists who pay lip service to peace while actually carrying on the war." It also urged the world's peoples to "step up more practical and positive activities in support of the Indochinese peoples, and to demand that the US imperialists put an end to their aggressive war in that part of the world.

• The recent USSR-Belgium, USSR-Syria, Hungary-Rumania, and German Democratic Republic-Korean People's Democratic Republic joint communiqués have expressed the full support of the signatories to the legitimate struggles of the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples, strongly condemend US aggressive war in Viet Nam and Indochina, and demanded that the USA immediately stop its aggression, rapidly withdraw all US and satellite troops from Viet Nam and Indochina, and cease backing the Nguyen Van Thieu regime.

• During the week ending February 1972, the Danish Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam in co-ordination with several other political organizations and a number of journalists in Copenhagen brought out special issues of the *Viet Nam Solidaritet* paper in tens of thousands of copies a day to disseminate the seven-point proposal and the two key points in the February 2, 1972 Statement of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the South Viet Nam Republic, and to condemn the US Saigon war crimes in Viet Nam.

• On February 26, hundreds of American youths of both sexes and members of anti-war movements flocked New York for a national convention against the aggressive war in Viet Nam and Indochina. The participants laid down a plan for meetings and demonstrations against Nixon's obdurate prolongation of the war, and discussed united action between the thousand-odd war dissenting groups and organizations in the USA.

• Recently, many meetings of various sections of the Soviet people (workers at the Kalinin Institute of Research, the Liublino engine repair works in Moscow, employees at the Far East Petrol Station, professors and students at the Kamchatka Normal College...) have adopted resolutions expressing full support to the position of the South Viet Nam PRG and the DRVN regarding the peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem, and demanding that the USA immediately end its aggressive war, withdraw all US troops from Indochina, and stop backing the Nguyen Van Thieu regime so as to let the South Vietnamese people decide their internal affairs without foreign interference.

• On February 26, Chilean Committee for Solidarity with Indochina and other progressive youth organizations held meetings of solidarity with Viet Nam in the Cabildo area of Aconcagua province (Chile). Over 1,000 youths, students of colleges and secondary schools were working as volunteers to build a huge dam. The gathering was also attended by locals. The participants flayed the brutal aggression of the US imperialists against the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples, and expressed the unqualified support of the Chileans to the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people as well as to the sound position of the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the DRVN concerning the settlement of the Vietnamese problem.

THE THIRD WORLD IN EFFERVESCENCE

THAILAND — The patriotic armed forces and the population of Phitsanulok, Loey, Phetchabun courageously and successfully resisted enemy raids. According to official statistics, more than 100 adverse soldiers were wiped out and 200 others wounded, and 2 planes brought down in Phitsanulok between January 20 and February 27. Traffic in this province has now been made unsafe by continual ambushes.

During the same period, in Tak, Nakhon Phanom and Sarat Thani provinces, the patriotic armed forces attacked and ambushed the police, knocking out many of them.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF YEMEN — On February 21, the army and police beat off an incursion of over 1,000 mercenaries equipped by the US imperialists and the Saudi Arab reactionaries, inflicting many casualties and capturing a big haul of weapons, US military vehicles and other important documents.

LEBANON — On February 25, the Lebanese army in co-ordination with Palestinian guerillas repelled many Israeli onslaughts of over 30 planes, 80 tanks and armoured cars intruding into Bent Jibeil, eliminating many enemy troops, wrecking many tanks and armoured cars, and chasing many marauders out of the Lebanese air space.

PALESTINE — In the last ten days of January 1972, the guerillas launched fifteen onsets on the Israeli aggressors in Golan, Gaza and many other places, putting out of action 30 men, 2 vehicles and 1 section of railways, and razed many posts.

MOZAMBIQUE — With popular help, the patriotic armed forces sprang between September 1971 and January 1972, vigorous assaults on the Portuguese colonialists in Nyassa province, wiping out 80 of them, wrecking 3 bridges and 24 vehicles, and overturned 1 train.

ANGOLA — From November 1971 to January 1972, the patriotic armed forces hit hard at the Portuguese colonialists in the northern and southern parts of the Eastern front, putting out of action 85 enemy soldiers and seizing a big amount of weapons and military equipment.

GUINEA (BISSAU) — In December 1971, the patriotic armed forces repeatedly struck at the Portuguese colonialists in every place, taking a toll of 213, downing 2 planes, destroying 23 military vehicles, sinking and seriously damaging 5 patrol boats on the Geba river. In an engagement lasting from December 20 to 26, 1971, the guerillas fought off an enemy inroad into the Mores liberated area, killing 102 aggressors, wounding many others, and collecting a big quantity of weapons and military equipment.

REPUBLIC OF GUINEA — On February 20 and 21 the ack forces downed 2 marauder planes of the Portuguese colonialists intruding into the Guinean air space.

Complete freedom for Angela Davis

ACCORDING to reports from the United States, under pressure from progressives in America and the world at large, US reactionary authorities had to release on bail on Feb. 23 Angela Davis after 16 months of detention under the charges of "murder, kidnapping and conspiracy in the 1970 Marin county courthouse shootings."

This, however, did not mean that they had given up their effort to victimize her and get rid of her. They have forbidden her to attend meetings, leave the San Francisco Bay area, make public addresses and meet and talk with the press. Everywhere she goes, she is accompanied by court officials, and has to report to the police once a week. On Feb. 28, the Santa Clara (California) district court began preliminary hearings. "Some of the tightest security in judicial history" surrounded the trial. Even newsmen and jurors entering the courtroom were frisked and fingerprinted. With such measures, the authorities hoped to give those who conducted the trial the impression that they were dealing with an extremely dangerous offender, so as to prejudice against Angela's case, and suppress and intimidate the movement of American progressives who are protesting the administration's reactionary policies and pressing that Nixon end the criminal US war of aggression in Viet Nam now.

Unquestionably, US ruling circles have exposed themselves as vicious fascists. Together with American and world's progressives, the South Vietnamese people strongly condemn this scheme and move of the Nixon administration and demand complete freedom for Angela Davis.

Angela Davis at the Santa Clara (California) military tribunal

WITH AN OPEN HEART

THE International Women's Day has long been a day of the world women's united action with their Vietnamese sisters against US aggression. Every year, on this occasion, in the liberated areas of South Viet Nam, we receive warm greetings and encouragement from our friends in all continents and are informed of their ebullient activities in solidarity with Viet Nam in different places of the globe.

The solidarity between women throughout the world and the Vietnamese women has been viewed with concern and amazement by the enemy. The latter cannot understand the reason why our battle for an independent and free Viet Nam and self-emancipation has been enjoying such a warm approval and considerable assistance from our friends the world over.

Not long ago, we were very moved to learn that in the GDR, a 84-year-old woman named Zonitz has sold her property for 44,500 marks for Viet Nam before becoming an inmate of a rest-home.

Of late, at a party to honour the founders of the US magazine *Reader's Digest* at the White House, a young woman suddenly stood up and held high a banner reading "Stop the slaughter in Indochina" in the direction of Nixon and his wife also present there at that moment. She was singer Carol Feraci of Los Angeles, who had been invited to perform at the function. Her behaviour strongly inconvenienced the White House boss. Earlier in 1968, Johnson was similarly displeased at a reception by singer Erta Kitt.

The old German woman and the two American young women referred to above (and a great many others) have taken actions different in forms but similar in essence: support for Viet Nam.

Why have they done so? Following are the explanations:

In a letter to the Viet Nam Embassy in Berlin, Frau Zonitz said: "I greatly admire those extraordinary women, the Vietnamese mothers and sisters, who have been credited with great achievements in the building and defence of their homeland. I have seen on the TV some displays of their spirit of self-sacrifice and fighting along the line charted by revered President Ho Chi Minh."

At the presidential party, Carol Feraci said: I think that I must seize this opportunity to voice protest against the war... and urge you to stop the bombings to massacre people, wipe out living beings and ravage vegetation in Viet Nam.

Through those anecdotes at least you can see the concern of all friends throughout the world, prompted by the fact that our people are victims of Washington's savage aggression and our people's undauntedness in front of the invaders.

We cannot but recall Michèle Ray, a young French woman writer who once tried to see our liberated zone and made herself a "prisoner." Her short stay with our fighters has been related by her in a famous booklet entitled *On Both Shores of Hell*. In a letter to the NFL before her departure she concluded: "If I were a Vietnamese, I should fight in the Viet Cong ranks."

The issue has probably become clearer. We have been winning their sympathy because we are Viet Congs, and we feel more inspired by this realization. As you know, Viet Cong (Vietnamese Communist) is a word coined by the aggressors and their agents to refer to all Vietnamese patriots. Many people in the world like this word because it symbolizes dauntlessness before tyranny or a new David defeating a Goliath of the 20th century, as French writer Vercors has once said to Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh. Another friend of ours, authoress Sarah Lidman, has set up "Viet Cong resistance bases" right in Stockholm, and called herself "Viet Cong." On many occasions and most recently on December 30, 1971, she made clear why she liked to be a "Viet Cong": "The Vienamese guerilla is much more magnificent than the Pentagon. The latter is the symbol of genocide whereas the former is that of the strength of life and constructive instinct." Burmese woman writer Doahma has conferred on the Vietnamese women the title "Skilful Women of Asia" after making a close survey of their anti-aggression struggle, and especially after being told of the story of a Vietnamese woman capturing an American airman.

We have been greatly fired by these heartfelt eulogies, and have seen ever more clearly the significance of our deeds. How happy we feel when we find that millions and millions of women in the world sympathize with us and have been seeking all means to firmly back our gruelling confrontation with US aggression. We know that our friends in all continents, guerillas or writers, members of parliament or clergy women, outstanding activists or workers, all have been doing everything to help bring nearer our victory. A pamphlet of Monica Warnenska or a poem of Blaga Dimitrova, a press article of Madeleine Riffaud or Sarah Lidman, a book of Kirilenko or Michele Ray, an anti-war statement of Angela Davis or Bella Abzug, all have been to us strong fillips. We are elated to know that millions of women of all skin complexions, nationalities, religions and political affiliations now struggling hard for national independence, democracy and social progress have found comrades-in-arms in the "gun-carrying mothers" and the "long-haired army" of South Viet Nam. Any encouragement however small which our effort may give you will help us realize ever more clearly the significance of the fight waged by our people in South Viet Nam under the leadership of the NFL and RSVN PRG.

An American friend has related her sharing the sugar-cane cutting experience with a Vietnamese woman in Cuba in Autumn 1970 as follows:

In the US, one has written much about the Vietnamese women and their role in the struggle for liberation. They have set for us an inspiring example. Following a talk with a Vietnamese woman in "Venceremos 3" team, I have realized the emancipation of the Vietnamese woman, from a slave bound by feudal customs, into a humanist and patriotic woman of the revolutionary movement. It has thrown light on what gives strength to them and to ourselves.

Such awareness has brought us close to one another, and it is the source of our strength. In an open letter to the Vietnamese women in late 1971, a number of American friends wrote: We extend the best wishes for peace to our Vietnamese sisters. We pledge to co-ordinate action with you in the building of a future world in which no families will be separated by the war, the right to self-determination of all nations will be respected and the children may grow up in freedom.

In their co-ordinated effort, the Vietnamese and American peoples will surely win victory over the US government's aggressive, imperialist and militarist policies.

Naturally, like tens of thousands of others addressed to us in the past period, this open letter has been received with a great enthusiasm and an open heart.

NGUYEN THI TUYET

(South Vietnamese Women's Liberation Union)

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION